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USIB-D-33.1/17  
25 September 1964  
Limited Distribution

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

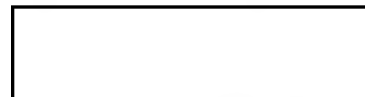
MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Classification of Soviet Missile Designations

1. The enclosed Guided Missile and Astronautics Intelligence Committee (GMAIC) memorandum and its attachment are forwarded to USIB for consideration as a result of questions which have arisen recently concerning the security classification of Soviet missile designations. GMAIC proposes that the guidelines on this subject in paragraph 4 of the attached memorandum be disseminated by GMAIC for the information and guidance of all users within the intelligence community.

USIB Action Requested

2. Board members are requested to advise the Secretariat by close of business 30 September of their concurrence in or other views on the guidelines proposed by GMAIC in paragraph 4 of the attached memorandum.



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Colonel, USAF  
Acting Executive Secretary

Attachment

Distribution: Attached

Record of action attached.

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GROUP 1  
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downgrading and  
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**GUIDED MISSILE AND ASTRONAUTICS INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE**

16 September 1964

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD**

**SUBJECT: Classification of Soviet Missile Designations**

1. Recently questions have arisen within the intelligence community as to the security classification of Soviet missile designations. Although GMAIC has no security function per se, it does have the responsibility for assigning certain types of designations to Soviet missiles as they are discovered.

2. A survey of the practices presently employed indicates that the numbered missile designators such as "SS-3," "SS-6," "SA-1," "AA-1," "AS-3," and "SSN-4" have been used in an unclassified manner. However, it should be noted that the designators of recently identified systems, like the SS-9 and SS-10, should be classified, at least for a period of time.

3. The nickname designators established by the ABC Air Standardization procedures are unclassified, with one exception. Moreover, it has become common practice to consider these unclassified nicknames connected to the numbered designations as unclassified. Thus, "SS-3 SHYSTER," "SS-4 SANDAL," "SA-1 GUILD," etc. are considered unclassified expressions.

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**SUBJECT: Classification of Soviet Missile Designations**

4. GMAIC proposes that the following guidelines be circulated within the intelligence community for dissemination to all users:

- a) The numbered designators and ABC Air Standardization nicknames are classified as indicated in Annex A. Future numbered designations will be assigned by GMAIC and classified as appropriate. Furthermore, the declassification of missile designators will be handled by GMAIC as necessary.
- b) The unclassified numbered designations used with the unclassified ABC Air Standardization nicknames are unclassified. Thus, expressions such as "SA-1 GUILD," "SA-2 GUIDELINE," "SS-3 SHYSTER" are unclassified.
- c) Expressions linking numbered designations to operational or technical characteristics would assume the highest classification of the material included. The minimum classification would be CONFIDENTIAL. Thus, expressions such as "SS-7 ICBM," "the 700 n.m. SSN-5," and "AS3 (350 n.m.)" are classified CONFIDENTIAL. There are three specific exceptions to this rule: "SS-3 SHYSTER MRBM," "SS-4 SANDAL MRBM," and "SS-5 IRBM." These three expressions were used in unclassified speeches and articles by government officials during the Cuban crisis and cannot be considered classified.

5. Providing USIB has no objections, the guidelines outlined above will be disseminated by GMAIC through the individual Committee Members.

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CARL E. DUCKETT  
Chairman

Attachment: Annex A

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Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		DATE	INITIALS	
1	EA/DCI		<i>signed by DCI</i> <i>3 Oct 64</i>		
2	Chairman, USIB				
3	ExSec/USIB				
4					
5					
6					
3	ACTION		DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
2	APPROVAL		DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
	COMMENT		FILE	RETURN	
	CONCURRENCE	1	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	
<b>Remarks:</b> 1. All other USIB members have concurred in the GMAIC proposed guidelines for classification of Soviet missile designations set forth in paragraph 4 of the attached memorandum from the Chairman, GMAIC.  2. Request your approval.  <div style="text-align: center;"> <i>Approved by DCI.</i>      <i>3 - OCT 1964</i>              John A. McCone              Chairman, USIB         </div>					
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